

PARISH LIFE

Our Vision: *Transforming lives through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our Mission: *To share Christ's love and His Word with our community and the world through Christ-centered outreach, worship, prayer, and biblical study.*

CHRIST TOGETHER CYCLE OF PRAYER:

WNY ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP CYCLE OF PRAYER:

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

If you are VISITING for the FIRST TIME please see one of our Greeters or Ushers. We have a gift at our Information Center that we would like to give to you.

If you would like an Assisted Hearing Device to use during the service please see an Usher.

Please notify the Church Office of any address, phone number, or email changes so that we may keep our records current.

Also, please have someone notify the Church Office if you are or will be hospitalized so one of our clergy may visit you.

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

Serving as the Pro-Cathedral of the International Diocese of the ACNA

2368 Eggert Road Tonawanda, NY 14150

(716) 831-1777 www.stbartston.org

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 16, 2020 4:30pm HE

Sunday, May 17, 2020 7:30, 9:15 & 11:15am HE

Sacring Bell

All stand when the bell rings.

Processional Hymn

Hymnal

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Versicles, Gloria & Salutation

Sixth Sunday of Easter: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Introduction: All humanity, with its ethnic, social, racial, and linguistic mix, originated from one source - the first Adam. God "*made from one (Adam) every nation of men.*" All races and nations are just symbolic "branches" created by the one "vine" (Christ the Word) "*by whom all things were made*" (John 1:3). Before God came to earth in the Person of Christ, He permitted nations and cultures to "branch out" in ignorance. God "overlooked" those "times of ignorance." But now that Christ has come to earth, the Church is commissioned to preach repentance to all humanity; for God has fixed a day on which all branches of our race will be judged by Him.

Acts 17:22-34: So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for

Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this." So Paul went out of their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Psalm 148:7-14 Laudate Dominum

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;
 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;
 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and maidens, old and young together.
 13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Introduction: Peter writes this letter to all Christian Jews of the "Diaspora" who were living in Gentile countries and suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. He encourages them to endure this persecution, knowing that the Lord will sustain them. Moreover, He reminds us to "always be ready to make a defense for the hope (our faith) that is in us."

1 Peter 3:8-18: "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL." Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile

your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit."

HOLY GOSPEL

Introduction: Without apologies, Jesus makes the claim that He is The Way, The Truth and The Life. He emphasizes this by adding that *no one* comes to the Father *except* through Him. Many people have trouble with this verse (v.6) for being too "narrow"; but the truth is that God's way is narrow, and "wide is the door that leads to destruction" (Mt. 7:13). For this reason we are called with urgency to be God's servants in ministry, that *all* might enter His kingdom by that one and only narrow gate.

St. John 15:1-11: "Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

Sermon Hymn Hymnal

The Sermon Fr. Ward

Nicene Creed, Prayers of the People, Confession Pr Bk.pp. 127-129

Exchange of the 'Peace,' Announcements

Offertory 9:15am
11:15am

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Great Thanksgiving & Holy Week Preface (Euch. Prayer B) Pr.Bk.p. 132

Communion Hymn 9:15am
9:15 & 11:15am

Thanksgiving & Priest's Blessing Pr.Bk.p
Closing Hymn Hymnal

The Dismissal CLERGY: "Let us bless the Lord."
PEOPLE: "Thanks be to God"

THE CALENDAR

Sun. 4/26 7:30, 9:15 & 11:15am HE
 Mon. 4/27
 Tues. 4/28
 Wed. 4/29
 Thur. 4/30
 Sat. 5/02
 Sun. 5/03 8, 9:15 & 11am HE 9:15 & 11am Sunday School

Our Leadership & Staff

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill Atwood, Bishop
The Very Rev. Arthur W. Ward, Jr., Dean and Rector
The Rev. Andrew J. Thebeau, Curate

Dn. John Reitz, Dn. Gary Wisniewski, Dn. Jacob Bush
 Mrs. Elizabeth Burkett: Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
 Mrs. Eileen Arnold: Junior & Contemporary Choir Director
 Mr. James Kibby: Sexton/Contemporary Music Ministry
 JoAn Beddome, Karen Wheaton, Cathy Reitz & Debbie Geis: Secretaries